CONFIDENTIAL.

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SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES, AND RÁJPUTÁNA,

Received up to 14th May 1891.

POLITICAL AND NATIVE STATES.

Circulation, 175 copies.

Manipur.

The *Najm-ul-Akhbár* (Etáwah), of the 8th May, expresses surprise that objections have been raised in some quarters against the annexation of Manipur, and observes that nothing could be more unjustifiable than to take exception to the policy of Government in face of the cruel massacres perpetrated by the Manipuris.

Circulation, 235 copies.

Suggestion regarding the annexation of Manipur.

The *Azád* (Lucknow), of the 8th May, observes that as many valuable lives have been sacrificed in Manipur, and that the State is a country of strategical importance, Government had better annex it.

Circulation, 200 copies.

Alleged destruction of a temple at Manipur by order of the Viceroy.

The *Álam-i-Taswír* (Cawnpore), of the 5th May, says that it would appear that the Sainapati not only murdered Mr. Quinton, but also offered his head as a present to an idol in a temple at Manipur. The Viceroy has ordered the idol and the temple to be entirely destroyed in consequence. In his speech on the Age of Consent Bill, His Excellency treated morality as something quite different from religion, and represented

the former as being superior to the latter. This was a serious mistake, which hurt the feelings of all classes of the native community. If Lord Lansdowne has really ordered the destruction of a shrine at Manipur, his Lordship has perpetrated another blunder. The idol must be worshipped not only by the Sainapati, but also by all other followers of the same religion. If his Lordship insults the religion of a whole community on account of the misconduct of a single individual, his proceedings are opposed to the policy of the British Government.

Circulation, 235 copies.

Attack made by the *Express* on the native officials who were with Mr. Quinton at Manipur.

The *Ázád* (Lucknow), of the 8th May, says that the *Express* is nothing if not hostile to natives. It has made a very unjust attack on the native officials, who were with Mr. Quinton at Manipur at the time of the occurrence of the catastrophe, accusing them of having been previously acquainted with the wicked intentions of the Manipuris. It is to be regretted that the Talúqdárs' Association does not keep an eye on the tone of its English newspaper. No doubt the association has more than once reprimanded Mr. Thompson, the Editor of the *Express*; but he does not care to obey it, though he is its servant, probably because he thinks that as he is a European it can do no harm to him. How long will the talúqdárs allow him to abuse their own countrymen?

Circulation, 540 copies.

Public meeting held at Lucknow to express regret at Mr. Quinton's death.

The *Oudh Akhbár* (Lucknow), of the 13th May, publishes the proceedings of a public meeting held at Kaisar Bágh, Lucknow, on the 8th idem, to express regret at the murder of Mr. Quinton and other European officers in Manipur. Munshi Newal Kishore, C.I.E., occupied the chair, and speeches were made praising Mr. Quinton for his good qualities and expressing regret at his death. The meeting resolved to send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Quinton. Many respectable Musalmáns were unable to attend the meeting on account of the Ramzán, but they fully sympathized with its objects.

Circulation, 175 copies.

Rámpur.

The *Naim-ul-Akhbár* (Etáwah), of the 8th May, says that the Rámpur affairs are enveloped in darkness. The murderers of

General Azim-ud-din Khan have not yet been discovered, nor has any successor to him been appointed. The Vice-Presidency can hardly be bestowed on a better man than Hamid-uz-Zafar Khan.

Circulation, 285 copies.

A correspondent of the *Ázád* (Lucknow), of the 8th May, adverting to the rumour that a European Prime Minister will be appointed in Rámpur, expresses disapproval of the proposal, particularly as the Nawáb will before long be installed on the *gaddi*. Nawáb Yarjang, the Judicial Member of the State Council, had better be made Vice-President. When the chief comes to the throne, he will select his own Vazir. The services of Mr. Wright, Engineer, are no longer required, and he should be removed from the State.

The same.

LEGISLATION.

Circulation, 500 copies.

The *Hindústán* (Kálakánkar), of the 7th May, referring to the circular issued by the Government of India in the Home Department to the Local Governments regarding the working of the Age of Consent Act, observes that no action will be taken by a District Magistrate in any case unless the complaint is based on trustworthy information supplied by responsible persons, and that any local inquiries, if necessary, will be made by experienced Native Magistrates, and not by any police officials. The Commissioners are to watch the working of the Act and to impress upon the District Magistrates the necessity for acting with great care and caution. The Local Governments are required to submit reports at the end of each year, showing the difficulties which may be experienced in the working of the Act. The circular reflects great credit on the sagacity, shrewdness, and sympathy of Lord Lansdowne, and the whole native community will be very thankful to his Lordship for it. No such sympathetic circular has emanated from the Home Department for many years. These recent orders will disarm all opposition to the Act, and convince even its most inveterate opponents that Lord Lansdowne's Government was really actuated by benevolence and humanity in passing it, and is very anxious to

Circular of the Government of India regarding the Age of Consent Act.

prevent it from causing any hardships to the people. It is now the duty of every true patriot to co-operate with Government in checking the evil custom which has called the Act into existence.

Circulation, 300 copies.

The *Hindústáni* (Lucknow), of the 6th May, in commenting upon the same subject, observes that the issue of the circular shows that the Government of India may disregard public opinion in the heat of a controversy; but that such opinion is sure to have an effect upon it in its cooler moments. Had Lord Lansdowne amended the Age of Consent Act on the lines of his recent circular at the time of passing it, a great deal of friction and discontent would have been avoided. The *Hindústáni* was always opposed to the transmission of any memorial to the Secretary of State in connection with the Act. But now that the Act has been amended by the Viceroy himself in his executive capacity by means of a circular, an appeal may be made to the Secretary of State with a good chance of success, praying that the amendments so effected may be incorporated into the Act. At all events the submission of a memorial would settle the question how far Lord Lansdowne's interpretation of Her Majesty's proclamation of 1858 is correct. The presence of elected members in the legislature would make such mistakes impossible.

The same.

ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 235 copies.

The *Azád* (Lucknow), of the 8th May, observes that the *Civil and Military Gazette* appears to have lost its head over the Benares riots. It says that if a foreign assailant happens to invade this country, the natives are sure to create disturbances throughout the country as they have lately done at Benares. Formerly, when the number of European Magistrates was larger than at present, such riots did not occur so frequently. The powers of Magistrates should be increased, and the police should fire on a crowd of people as soon as there is reason to think that the crowd is bent on rioting. In short, the *Civil and Military Gazette* is making all sorts of misrepresentations and endeavouring

Benares riots, the *Civil and Military Gazette*, and the *Pioneer*.

to induce Government to rule by the sword. The *Pioneer* has adopted a far more moderate and reasonable tone in connection with the outbreak at Benares. It asks the District Officers to deal with religious questions with great care and caution, and not to be readily guided by the advice of subservient Municipal Commissioners. It further suggests that if high prices and the increase in municipal taxation have anything to do with the riots, remedial measures should be taken. The *Civil and Military Gazette* either does not know the causes of the outbreak, or has been influenced by prejudice in its comments. Evidently, religious frenzy was at the bottom of the riots. Rája Shiva Prasad and Rája Shambhu Narayan are no authorities on Hindu religion, and the Hindus can have no confidence in their declarations. Government pretends to entertain very liberal views in religious matters; but is it ready to allow any Municipal Board to interfere with any Christian church? The Musalmáns espoused the cause of the Hindus at Benares because they thought that they were embarked in the same boat with the latter, and that a Muhammadan mosque might any day be treated in the same way as the Hindu temple. Mr. Wright was not justified in entirely ignoring the public opinion. Had Local Government received the deputation from the Hindus of Benares, and cancelled the objectionable orders of the Board, the riots would have been avoided. Surely there could be no great difficulty in removing the water tanks a little with a view to save the temple; but due attention was never paid to the representations of the Hindus. The Municipal Board is chiefly to blame for the occurrence of the riots. The rioters were guilty of great excesses. They ought not have committed plunder and ill-treated the poor coolies. But the high-handedness of the Board and the indifference of Mr. Wright, too, should not be overlooked. The disturbances were due to high religious feeling egged on by dissatisfaction created by the scarcity of grain and the increase of municipal taxation. It is to be regretted that the Local Government is inclined to force the hands of the Municipal Boards in the matter of water-supply. The inhabitants of the Agra Municipality are groaning under the additional taxes levied on account of the

water-works; at Benares serious riots have occurred; Cawnpore objects to the introduction of such works; and still stronger opposition exists at Lucknow. The *Civil and Military Gazette* is wrong in representing natives as a lawless and villainous people. The lower classes are in great distress owing to the dearth of food grains, as stated by the *Pioneer*. The *Hindústáni* is not wide of the mark when it declares that poverty-stricken criminals find themselves more comfortable in jails than at their homes, inasmuch as they are sure of receiving food in the former, but they have no such certainty while at the latter. Thousands of men called upon the Commissioner in a body, and complained to him of the scarcity of grain and the levy of heavy municipal taxes; but he turned a deaf ear to them. Sir Auckland Colvin should take a lesson from the results of an increase in municipal taxation at Agra and Benares, and refrain from forcing his schemes on half-starved people. The nominated members of Municipal Boards are mere puppets in the hands of Magistrate-Chairmen, and Government should not rely on the opinions of such members in important matters, as observed by the *Pioneer*. If any elected members who are the representatives of the people abuse their trust and consent to additions being made to the burdens of the people, their conduct cannot be too highly condemned. Undue official pressure is being brought to bear upon the Lucknow Municipal Board in connection with the water-supply question. It is to be hoped that the Board will think twice before it sanctions the introduction of water-works.

Circulation, 160 copies.

Benares riots.

The *Rahbar* (Moradabad), of the 9th May, says that no thoughtful man can think of the hardships and difficulties to which the inhabitants of Benares are at present exposed without strong feelings of grief and anxiety. It seems as if that holy city of the Hindus has ceased to be under the protection of Her Majesty's just and benign rule. Lord Ripon's local self-government, which was intended to be a blessing, has proved a curse to Benares. The wholesale export of grain to England has led to abnormally high prices throughout the country, and the Municipal Board of Benares has still more raised prices at that place by the levy of additional taxation. The people have quietly

Circulation, 400 copies.

Ruffians at Cawnpore.

The *Cawnpore Gazette*, of the 8th May, complains that the number of bad characters is steadily on the increase at Cawnpore, and that the public safety is endangered. Pirbhu Dayal, a native banker, has been obliged to obtain the services of a special police guard for the protection of his house for a fortnight through fear of ruffians.

Alleged misconduct of a police official at Cawnpore.

The same paper regrets to say that the house of a man at mohalla Korswan caught fire on the 26th April, and that his three children were burnt. He was afterwards unnecessarily much harassed by the officer in charge of the police-station at Filkhána-bazaar.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	Name.	Locality.	Language.	Monthly, weekly or otherwise.	Name of publisher.	Date of paper.	Date of receipt.	Circulation.
						1891.	1891.	
1	*Agra Akhbár* ...	Agra ...	Urdu ...	Weekly ...	Tajammul Husain ...	May 7th ...	May 8th ...	262 copies.
2	*Akhbár-i-Álam* ...	Meerut ...	„ ...	„ ...	Muqarrab Husain Khán.	„ 5th ...	„ 9th ...	63 „
3	*Álam-i-Taswír* ...	Cawnpore ...	„ ...	„ ...	Rahmat-ul-lah ...	„ „ ...	„ „ ...	200 „
4	*Aligarh Institute Gazette,*	Aligarh ...	Urdu-English,	Bi-weekly ...	Alím-ul-lah ...	„ 5th, 9th & 12th.	„ 8th, 12th, & 14th.	469 copies (including 282 copies taken by Govt.)
5	*Amir-ul-Akhbár* ...	Meerut ...	Urdu ...	Weekly ...	Amir Ali ...	„ 4th ...	„ 12th ...	200 copies.
6	*Anjuman-i-Hind* ...	Lucknow ...	„ ...	„ ...	Kishun Lál ...	„ 9th ...	„ 14th ...	159 „
7	*Audh* ...	„ ...	„ ...	„ ...	Ahmad Ali ...	„ 8th ...	„ 10th ...	235 „
8	*Bhárat Jiwan* ...	Benares ...	Hindi ...	„ ...	Rám Krishn Varmá,	„ 11th ...	„ 14th ...	1,500 „
9	*Cawnpore Gazette* ...	Cawnpore ...	Urdu ...	„ ...	Harnám Singh ...	„ 8th ...	„ „ ...	400 „
10	*Dabdaba-i-Sikandari* ...	Rámpur ...	„ ...	„ ...	Muhammad Husain,	„ 11th ...	„ 13th ...	450 „
11	*Dabir-i-Hind* ...	Agra ...	„ ...	Tri-monthly,	Amín-ul-dín ...	„ 10th ...	„ „ ...	70 „
12	*Devanágri Gazette* ...	Meerut ...	Hindi ...	Monthly ...	Gauri Datt ...	For April ...	„ 12th ...	200 „
13	*Fínah* ...	Gorakhpur ...	Urdu ...	Weekly ...	Nizám Ahmad ...	May 8th ...	„ 13th ...	550 „
14	*Hamdard* ...	Fyzabad ...	„ ...	„ ...	Samsám Ali ...	„ „ ...	„ 11th ...	212 „
15	*Hindustán* ...	Kálákankar ...	Hindi ...	Daily ...	Gur Datt Sukla ...	„ 7th to 12th,	„ 8th to 13th,	500 „
16	*Hindustání* ...	Lucknow ...	Urdu ...	Weekly ...	Gangá Prasád Varmá.	„ 6th ...	„ 9th ...	800 „
17	*Jaipur Gazette* ...	Jaipur ...	Hindi-Urdu,	Bi-weekly ...	Mahávír Prasád ...	April 25th & 29th,	„ 8th ...	100 „
18	*Jám-i-Jamshed* ...	Moradabad ...	Urdu ...	Weekly ...	Jamshed Ali ...	May 3rd & 10th	„ 10th & 14th,	150 „

19	*Kárndmak*	...	Lucknow	...	„	...	„	...	Muhammad Yáqúb,	„	10th	...	„ 14th ...	250 „
20	*Kashf Patrikd*	...	Benares	...	Hindi-Urdu,		„	...	Lakshmi Shankar Misra, M.A.	„	8th	...	„ 11th ...	475 copies (including 344 copies taken by Govt.)
21	*Káyasth Akhbár*	...	Lucknow	..	Urdu	...	„	...	Rudra Prasád ...	„	1st	...	„ „ ...	1,200 copies.
22	*Káyasth Shubh Chintak*	...	Bareilly	...	Hindi	...	„	...	Thákur Prasád ...	„	3rd	...	„ 10th ...	200 „
23	*Khichri Samáchár*	...	Mirzapur	...	Hindi-English.		„	...	Bhagwán Prasád ...	„	2nd	...	„ 11th ...	262 „
24	*Khurshid-i-Áfáq*	...	Pilibhít	...	Urdu	...	„	...	Mazhar Ahsan Khán,	April	30th	...	„ 12th ...	200 „
25	*Mathur Vaishya Sukhdayak.*		Agra	...	Hindi	...	Monthly	...	Babu Lal ...	For April		...	„ 8th ...	...
26	*Matla-i-Núr*	...	Cawnpore	...	Urdu	...	Weekly	...	Gauri Shankar ...	May	9th	...	„ 12th ...	50 copies.
27	*Mauj-i-Narbudda*	...	Hoshangabad,		„	...	„	...	Abdul Karím ...	„	1st	...	„ 11th ...	200 „
28	*Mihr-i-Munaor*	...	Bijnor	...	„	...	„	...	Karím-ul-lah ...	„	7th	...	„ 10th ...	385 „
29	*Mufid-i-Ám*	...	Agra	...	„	...	Tri-monthly,		Ahmad Khán ...	„	10th	...	„ 12th ...	125 „
30	*Najm-ul-Akhbár*	...	Etáwah	...	„	...	Weekly	...	Rúh-ul-lah Khán ...	„	8th	...	„ 14th ...	175 „
31	*Nasim-i-Agra*	...	Agra	...	„	...	„	...	Jamna Dás Biswás ...	„	7th	...	„ 8th ...	425 „
32	*Nasr-i-Hind*	...	„	...	„	...	„	...	Muhammad Ali ...	„	8th	...	„ 11th ...	40 „
33	*Núr-ul-Anwár*	...	Cawnpore	...	„	...	„	...	Abd-ul-Hamid ...	„	2nd	...	„ 8th ...	238 „
34	*Nyáya Sudhá*	...	Harda	...	Marathi-English.		„	...	Wásudeva Bháskar,	April	15th & May 6th.		„ 9th ...	350 „
35	*Oudh Akhbár*	...	Lucknow	...	Urdu	...	Daily	..	Sheo Prasád ...	May	8th to 14th,		„ 8th to 14th,	540 copies (including 90 copies taken by Govt.)
36	*Oudh Punch*	...	„	...	„	...	Weekly	...	Sajjád Hussain ...	„	7th	..	„ 8th ...	400 copies.
37	*Prayág Samáchár*	...	Allahabad	...	Hindi	...	„	...	Har Vansh Datt ...	„	„	...	„ 9th ...	400 „
38	*Rafi-ul-Akhbár*	...	Benares	...	Urdu	...	„	...	Ghulám Hussain ...	„	4th	...	„ 8th ...	300 „
39	*Rahbar*	...	Moradabad	...	„	...	„	...	Partáb Kishan ...	„	9th	...	„ 13th ...	160 „
40	*Rúh-ul-Akhbár*	...	Gorakhpur	...	„	...	„	...	Nisám Ahmad ...	„	8th	...	„ 13th ...	325 „
41	*Rohilkhand Punch*	...	Moradabad	...	„	...	„	...	Jamshed Ali ...	„	3rd & 10th,		„ 10th & 14th,	150 „
42	*Sajjan Kirti Sudhákar*	...	Udaipur	...	Hindi	...	„	...	...	„	4th	...	„ 8th ...	100 „

(345)

List of newspapers examined—(concluded).

No.	Name.	Locality.	Language.	Monthly, weekly or otherwise.	Name of publisher.	Date of paper.	Date of receipt.	Circulation.
						1891.	1891.	
43	*Sitára-i-Hind* ...	Moradabad ...	Urdu ...	Weekly ...	Banwári Lál ...	April 1st & May 1st.	May 14th ...	125 copies.
44	*Subodh Sindhu* ...	Khandwa ...	Maráthi-Hindi.	„ ...	Lakshman Anant Prayági.	May 6th ...	„ 10th ...	275 „
45	*Tohfa-i-Hind* ...	Bijnor ...	Urdu ...	„ ...	Jairáj Singh ...	„ „ ...	„ 14th ...	250 „
46	*Vaishnavati Chandrikd* ...	Bulandshahr,	Hindi ...	Monthly ...	Har Prasád ...	For April ...	„ 10th ...	...

ALLAHABAD:
The 18th May 1891.

PRIYA DAS, M.A.,
Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

borne distress and privation, but the Board next attacked their religion, thus adding insult to injury. It desired to demolish an old Hindu temple, and all the appeals made by the Hindus resulted in nothing. The Local Government and the Government of India referred the petitioners to the Board itself against whose orders they had appealed. Of what use are the Local Government and the Government of India in that case? There is no scarcity of water at Benares as in Sindh or Bikanír; but still the European officials have long been anxious to provide a pure water-supply, even though the heavy cost will aggravate the distress of the half-starved people. Sir Auckland Colvin has determined to carry out the scheme, which had long hung fire, and several anglicized Rájas and Bábus are ready to lend a helping hand to His Honor. The *Rahbar* refers to the various petitions which the Pandits, other Hindus, and the Rání of Barhar submitted to the Board, the District Magistrate, the Commissioner, and the Local Government, and complains that no replies were vouchsafed. Only the Commissioner gave a reply to the effect that the petitioners had no ground for fear, as the question had been entrusted to Hindus for settlement. Apparently the Commissioner meant by Hindus the Municipal Board, which is largely composed of Hindu members; but the people know very well that the members were mere tools in the hands of the District authorities. Pandit Shiva Kumar Shastri and several other Pandits of Benares were consulted by the Board on the subject of the demolition of the temple, and they declared that the demolition would be opposed to Hindu scriptures. The Hindus applied for a copy of their report, but the application was rejected. The meeting of the Board, held on the 5th February to consider the report, decided to allow the Engineer to demolish all buildings situated near the temple, and to level the ground. The decision caused some anxiety among the Hindus, who were quite alarmed when they suddenly came to know of the application made by the Collector, who has the power to create, support, and destroy, to the Judge, to the effect that the temple, and the land on which it is situated, had been acquired by the Board, and that the

Judge might settle the question of payment of compensation as no one came forward to receive the money? A prize has been offered by Government for supply of information leading to the discovery of the man who spread the rumour that the temple was being demolished. But what does the Collector's application mean, and can it be denied that a deep-laid plot was going on to procure the fall of the temple? The Chairman of the Board ordered a deep hole to be dug round the temple, and afterwards, in his capacity of District Magistrate, issued a notice under section 133 of the Criminal Procedure Code for the immediate demolition of the building! The steps of the temple were destroyed to the extreme grief of the Hindus. Some learned Brahmans called upon the Collector and protested against the demolition. The Collector jocosely told them to wait till the arrival of the next rainy season, and then to see whether King Indar would assist him or them. He obviously meant that the temple would collapse at the next fall of rains. Such is the way in which officers talk to natives about their religious matters. *O tempora, O mores!* The demolition of the temple was not absolutely necessary. The pumping station could be easily shifted a few paces to the north; but this was not done, as in that case Bábu Sita Ram's house would be interfered with. Indeed, it was desired to destroy the temple simply because the building would prevent men, while passing on the high road, from having a full view of the water-works! On the day of the riots a municipal meeting was held in the morning. At the close of the meeting the Hindus sent a petition to the Chairman, but he refused to receive it with an angry voice, and left the Town Hall. About 300 foot and mounted police stood near the Bhaironath police-station at the time, and repeatedly declared that the temple would be demolished on that day, and that they would assist in the demolition. When some Hindus desired to enter the temple for worship on that day, as usual, the European official present on the occasion forbade entrance, and told them that he would at once raze the temple to the ground with the aid of the military, and challenged the Hindus and the Musalmáns to save it if they could. The report of this threat spread like wildfire through

out the town, and bankers and traders shut up their shops. With reference to the arrests made by the police, the *Rahbar* complains that the police have established a reign of terror, and arrest even respectable persons with a view to practise extortion, and what is worse is that the District authorities connive at their high-handed proceedings. About 1,200 men have already been apprehended, and thrown into a small room in the lock-up. They ask for water to quench their thirst in vain, but only a small quantity of gram is given them once during the day. It is easy to imagine their sufferings from heat and thirst. Adverting to the final resolution of the Board, the writer observes that it is not approved of by the Hindu community, and that Government should do justice to the inhabitants of Benares and save them from the difficulties into which they have been plunged. The natives have a strong confidence in the religious tolerance of the British Government. Everything which is calculated to impair this confidence should be carefully eschewed.

Circulation, 400 copies.

Benares riots and the police.

The *Cawnpore Gazette*, of the 8th May, says that it is rumoured that the conduct of the police guard at the Benares temple before the occurrence of the outbreak greatly assisted in the creation of the popular belief that the temple was doomed. It would be no matter for surprise if the Police officials themselves were found to have taken part in the riots. There can be no doubt that the police could suppress the disturbances in the bud if they liked. But the fact is they congratulate themselves on the occurrence of such riots. The Benares *emeute* has afforded the local police a splendid opportunity for making money by extortion.

Circulation, 275 copies.

Subodh Sindhu and the Benares riots.

The *Subodh Sindhu* (Khandwa), of the 6th May, refers to a letter which the Editor has received from the Deputy Commissioner, and in which the latter condemns the account of the Benares riots published in the previous issues of the *Subodh Sindhu* as false and exaggerated, and communicates his version of the story. The Editor states that his account was based on the articles published in the *Vártáhar* newspaper of Bombay.

thanks the Deputy Commissioner for his letter, but observes that his version of the story is not supported by the accounts given in various newspapers.

Circulation, 275 copies.

The *Subodh Sindhu* (Khandwa), of the 6th May, says that it appears from the *Shubh Chintak* of Jabbalpur that a big statue of Hanumán-jí is situated near the new court buildings at Jabbalpur. It is not known for certain when the idol was placed there for the first time, but some persons think that it was erected in the time of the Mahrattas. When the court buildings were under construction, Mr. Ismay, the then Deputy Commissioner, granted permission to a Hindu to build a temple over the idol, but for some reason or other the man was unable to do so. The present Deputy Commissioner desires to remove the idol from its present position on the ground that the land is required for providing room for suitors. But the proposal is not a well-advised one, particularly as the native community is already very sore on account of the Benares riots, and it is to be hoped that the Jabbalpur authorities will abandon the idea.

Proposed removal of a Hindu idol from its place near the court buildings at Jabbalpur.

Circulation, 300 copies.

The *Hindústáni* (Lucknow), of the 6th May, gives the substance of Mr. Seymour Keay's article on the poverty of this country published in the April number of *India*, and observes that widespread poverty and distress prevail in the country, and that consequently there is universal dissatisfaction among all classes of people with British rule. Mr. Seymour Keay thinks that if no steps are taken by Government to improve the condition of the people, and their sufferings grow intolerable, they will rebel against Government. Look at the effect which the poverty of the country has produced on the mind of a sympathetic Englishman, while on the other hand there are hard-hearted Natives, who, in their eagerness for obtaining titles, are ready to cut the throats of their countrymen! Mr. Keay's suspicion as to the outbreak of a general rebellion is unfounded. The people know very well that there is no powerful Native Chief on whom they could rely for

Mr. Seymour Keay on the poverty of India.

said, and that they could gain nothing by a change of masters. Indeed, they have full confidence in the justice of the great British nation, and believe that it will never allow this country to be reduced to a state of utter ruin and destitution, at least from considerations of self-interest if from no others. England can derive benefits from this country only as long as the latter is prosperous. The Natives are highly dissatisfied with the proceedings of heaven-born Civilians and Anglo-Indians, and will strive hard for the introduction of reform, and there is every reason to hope that the British electors and Members of Parliament will not tolerate the heavy public expenditure which has exposed this country to privation. They will not allow Rs. 2,200 to be paid to a Deputy Commissioner when they can get his work equally well done on payment of Rs. 800 or Rs. 1,000 a month. It is to be regretted that Mr. Bradlaugh has died, otherwise he would greatly assist Mr. Keay and Mr. Digby in the righteous work they have undertaken. But the cause of dumb and speechless millions will never suffer from the want of friends and supporters in England, the cradle of freedom.

Circulation, 500 copies.

Mr. A. K. Connell and the Civil Service question.

The *Hindústán* (Kálakánkar), of the 12th May, adverting to the paper read by Mr. A. K. Connell before the East India Association at London on the 23rd March last, regarding the admission of Natives to the Indian Civil Service, observes that the scheme adopted by Lord Cross, which is chiefly based on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission, very closely resembles the scheme expounded by Mr. Connell before that Association, when the commission was holding its sittings. He therefore naturally approves of Lord Cross' scheme, and says that Natives should be satisfied with it, a more liberal scheme being impossible under the present state of things. Apparently he has not carefully read those portions of the Allahabad and Bombay National Congress Reports which deal with the Civil Service question, nor the letter addressed by Mr. Digby to the Secretary of State on the subject. The fact is that Natives will lose more by the abolition of the Statutory Civil Service than they will gain by the creation of the Provincial Civil Service. The only benefit which they

have derived from the recommendations of the Public Service Commission is the raising of the limit of age to 23 years. Full justice, however, will not be done to Natives in the matter until the Civil Service examination is also held in this country, as was admitted by the Duke of Argyle and the India Office Committee in 1860.

Circulation, 500 copies.

The *Hindústán* (Kálakánkar), of the 9th May, with reference to the question of providing for the expenses of the Miranzai, the Black Mountain, and the Manipur expeditions, and the threatened loss of the opium-revenue, observes that any increase in taxation would be unwise and impolitic. As it is, the people are groaning under their burdens. If Government desires to make a permanent improvement in the state of its treasury, it should abandon the habit of readily picking quarrels with its neighbours, and reduce the military expenditure and the home charges. If the enforcement of economy be unpalatable to it, the cotton import duty had better be reimposed.

Alleged need for the reduction of public expenditure or the reimposition of the cotton import duty.

Circulation, 125 copies.

The *Mufíd-i-Ám* (Agra), of the 10th May, complains that the income tax assessments are not properly made at Agra: many persons who were never taxed before, and whose annual incomes are below the minimum taxable income, have been assessed this year. It is difficult to understand how incomes are assessed by the assessors. Probably they are chiefly animated by a desire to increase the revenue with a view to curry favour with the District Officers. But they ought to bear in mind that their proceedings are opposed to the wishes of Government, which does not desire that assessments should be unfair and inequitable.

Income tax assessments at Agra.

Circulation, 200 copies.

The *Álam-i-Taswír* (Cawnpore), of the 5th May, with reference to the question of providing funds for carrying out the water-supply scheme, observes that some local officers are opposed to the introduction of the octroi duty on the ground that in that case Cawnpore would cease to be a centre of trade in these Provinces. But the levy of a house tax, too, would press hard

Octroi duty *versus* house tax, Cawnpore.

on the people. The *Alam-i-Taswir* thinks that the octroi duty would be preferable to the house tax.

Circulation, 300 copies.

The *Hindústání* (Lucknow), of the 6th May, publishes the proceedings of the special meeting of the Lucknow Municipal Board held on the 1st idem to consider the water-supply scheme, and regrets to say that the independent members were defeated. But their defeat was a foregone conclusion, as the Deputy Commissioner had openly declared his opposition to them. They could not be expected to be victorious as they have no titles, honorary magistracies, and licenses for arms in their gift. Some members who had previously voted against the Deputy Commissioner, voted with him at that meeting. The country would never have been reduced to its present state of degradation had those men, who are generally considered respectable and have some pretensions to education, possessed a sense of self-respect and duty. They are the root of all the evil, and would not hesitate to hang their brethren to a man if they could, in their excessive eagerness to please the authorities. The people are to blame for electing such men to represent them in the Municipal Board.

Lucknow water-supply question.

Circulation, 235 copies.

The *Azad* (Lucknow), of the 8th May, says that the Lucknow Municipal Board has not been well advised in abandoning the artesian well scheme in favour of another for pumping water from the river. It would do well to give up also the new scheme and to be content with cleaning and improving the wells situated within the municipal limits. Any large increase in municipal taxation would press heavily on the people, whose condition is very unsatisfactory. It is no wise policy to provide a pure and abundant supply of water for them at the expense of starving them.

Water-supply scheme, Lucknow.

Circulation, 200 copies.

The *Manj-i-Narbadda* (Hoshangabad), of the 1st May, expresses regret at the want of mutual friendship and sympathy between Europeans and natives, and ascribes the existence of this unsatisfactory state of things to the Europeans keeping aloof from natives. There are of course some honorable exceptions.

Relations between Europeans and natives.

Colonel Brooke, Commissioner, Central Provinces, is very anxious to cultivate friendship with respectable natives, and visits them at their own houses. On the occasion of his daughter's marriage, which was held eight months ago, he invited his native friends from all parts of the province, and treated them with great hospitality during their stay. It would be well if other Europeans followed his example.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulation, 200 copies.

The *Álam-i-Taswír* (Cawpore), of the 5th May, says that on the 4th idem, when Lála Shiva Prasad, Pleader, Cawnpore, was about to set fire to the funeral pyre of his wife who had been secretly killed, the police suddenly appeared on the scene and prevented the dead body from being burnt. The Lála avoided arrest by throwing himself into the river. No trace of him has yet been found.

Attempt made by Lála Shiva Prasad, Pleader, to burn the dead body of his wife, who had been secretly killed, Cawnpore.

Circulation, 400 copies.

The *Cawnpore Gazette*, of the 8th May, says that on the 4th idem Lála Shiva Prasad, Pleader, on his return home from court in the afternoon, found his wife killed during his absence. He did not report the matter to the police, but quietly took her to the bank of the river for the purpose of cremation. The police received information and hastened to the place. On arrival they removed the corpse from the funeral pyre to which fire had not yet been set, and began to abuse and ill-treat the Lála. Seeing that his female and male relatives will be disgraced during the impending inquiry and trial, he at once made his escape. As his shoes and brass pot were found on the bank of the river, it is believed that he drowned himself. But the police made no attempt to discover him or recover his body from the river. Mr. Bird, the District Magistrate, expressed regret at the unfortunate incident, and rebuked the police for their conduct, ordering them to trace the Lála. It is to be hoped that the murderer will be found out, and brought to justice without the Lala's family being unnecessarily ill-treated by the police. Men are now ready to commit suicide in order to escape police ill-treatment.

The same.